

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 33-82 are pending in the application, with 33 and 55 being the independent claims. Claims 1-32 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

After the amendments above, the remaining claims are directed to "Invention II," which was indicated by the Examiner in an Office Action dated July 2, 2002 (hereinafter "restriction requirement"), in the parent application, U.S. application Serial No. No.10/101,751, filed March 21, 2002.

Applicants assert that additional inventions than those indicated in the restriction requirement may be present in the present application, and reserve the right to submit additional new claims and/or claim amendments directed toward the additional inventions, in the present application, and/or in future continuation applications.

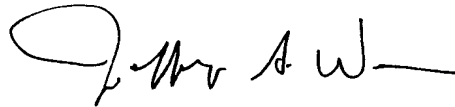
Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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Date: 12-9-03

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